

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 21-35 remain in this application. New claim 40 has been presented.

#### **Amendments to the Abstract**

Applicant has amended the Abstract to overcome the Examiner's objection. In particular, the reference to Figure 1 has been deleted. It is respectfully requested that the objection to these claims be withdrawn.

#### **Amendments to claims**

Applicant has amended the claims to eliminate reference characters and place the claims in common U.S. form. The reference characters have no effect on the scope of the claims. *See* M.P.E.P. § 608.01(m).

#### **Amendments to claims to overcome the objections**

Applicant has amended claims 22-35 to correct the informalities. "A device" has been changed to read --The device -- as requested by the Examiner. It is respectfully requested that the objection to these claims be withdrawn.

#### **Amendments to claims to overcome the claim rejections**

Claims 29 and 30 have been amended to clearly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In addition claim 29 and 30 have been amended to add proper antecedent basis as requested by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that

these claims are now in condition for allowance. New claim 40 has been added, and is likewise submitted to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the present amendments to overcome the objections, and the Examiner's comments regarding the allowability of claim 21, claims 21-35 are now submitted to be in condition for allowance.

**Amendments to Claim 21**

Claim 21 has been amended to correct typographical errors. Specifically, a colon has been added after the preamble, the repetition of character 40 in the claim body where indicated has been deleted.

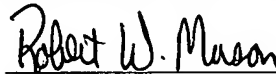
**SUMMARY**

Believing it has addressed all matters raised by the Examiner's September 30, 2003 Office Action, Applicant respectfully requests timely action on the merits. No fees are believed to be required for the amendment. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is permitted to deduct or credit any fees that may be required from Kinetic Concept Inc. Deposit Account No. 500-326.

If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that outstanding issues remain in the present application that could be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated to discuss resolution of such issues.

Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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